

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 USIE-00 EB-07 ERDA-05

CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01

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AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0133

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS ON MARCH 24, 1975

1. IN THE MARCH 24 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE CANADIAN REP, FRG REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK, AND CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER. THE SESSION BROUGHT NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EASTERN POSITION. EASTERN REPS STRESSED THE THEME THAT REFUSAL OF WEST TO REDUCE AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND RELUCTANCE OF THE NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO ASSUME SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS FROM THE OUTSET WERE JUSTIFIABLE GROUNDS TO QUESTION THE WILLINGNESS OF THE WEST TO MOVE FORWARD TO AN AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT INFORMAL SESSIONS, EASTERN REPS DID NOT MAKE THE SECRET

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CHARGE THAT WEST WAS ENGAGED IN FORCE INCREASES DURING

THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. CZECHOSLOVAK REP LED OFF WITH CHARGE THAT STUBBORN ADHERANCE OF WESTERN PARTICPANTS TO POSITIONS CONTRARY TO THE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY UNAVOIDLY RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WESTERN PARTICIPANTS, ESPECIALLY NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, WERE NOT TRYING TO AVOID A REDUCTION AGREEMENT. US REP MADE POINT THAT EXISTANCE OF DESTABILIZING EASTERN GROUND FORCE SUPERIORITY, PLUS THE NEW ADVANTAGES EAST WOULD GAIN FROM FACT THAT WESTERN FORCES IN AREA OF REDUCTIONS WOULD BE DECREASED AND LIMITED WHILE SOVIET FORCES ON TERRITORY ADJACENT TO THE REDUCTION AREA WOULD NOT BE LIMITED, JUSTIFIED WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH CALLING FOR A COMMON CEILING. EASTERN REPS CRITICIZED US REP'S PRESENTATION FOR OMITTING TREATMENT OF REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR AND AIR FORCES. US AND FRG REPS POINTED OUT THAT WEST HAD ANALYZED ALL FORCES IN THE AREA BEFORE COMING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE IMBALANCE IN GROUND FORCES WAS THE MAIN DESTABILIZING FACTOR. POLISH REP SAID VESTERN PROPOSALS MADE SINCE OUTSET OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOT SUBSTANTIVE. WESTERN FAILURE TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS BY ALL WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND TO INCLUDE ARMAMENTS IN THEIR OWN REDUCTIONS FAILED TO COME UP TO DECISIONS REACHED IN THE PRELIMINARY TALKS.

3. CANADIAN REP ANALYZED THE JUNE 1973 COMMUNIQUE TO SHOW THAT EASTERN CLAIMS THAT THE EASTERN POSITION CONFORMED TO THE COMMUNIQUE AND THAT THE WESTERN POSITION DID NOT AND WERE NOT SUBSTANTIATED. KHLESTOV IN TYPICALLY LENGTHY COMMENTARY REPEATED THE EASTERN CLAIM THAT WESTERN FOCUS ON GROUND FORCES WAS NEITHER SCIENTIFIC NOR LOGICAL BECAUSE IT LEFT OUT FORCE ELEMENTS WHICH WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE EAST-WEST FORCE RELATIONSHIP IN THE REDUCTION AREA. HE CRITICIZED WESTERN CLAIMS THAT ANY REDUCTION AGREEMENT WOULD CREATE NEW ADVANTAGES FOR THE EAST ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS ARGUMENTATION WENT BEYOND THE AGREED SCOPE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO

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TAKE UP THE WHOLE ISSUE OF COMPARITIVE CAPACITY OF OF PARTICIPANTS TO MOBILIZE. US AND FRG REPS AGREED THAT MOBILIZATION OF RESERVES WAS NOT WITHIN THE AGREED SCOPE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW EASTERN ADVANTAGES WEST WAS TALKING ABOUT DEALT DIRECTLY WITH THE EFFECTS OF REDUCTION AGREEMENTS ON ACTIVE DUTY FORCES, AN ISSUE WHICH CERTAINLY DID BELONG TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

KHLESTOV ONCE AGAIN RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN
INITIAL REDUCTION STEP AS A FIRST PRACTICAL STEP
FORWARD.

4. IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD THE NEXT SESSION ON APRIL 8.
THE WEST WILL BE HOST. END SUMMARY.

REMAINDER OF REPORT BEING SENT VIA AIRGRAM.
RESOR

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